

Message Text

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17

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-09

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /112 W

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R 062342Z MAR 75

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9382

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

UNCLAS USUN 0702

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SF, NI

SUBJ: BLACK AFRICAN "DIALOGUE" WITH SOUTH AFRICA

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF NIGERIAN MISSION PRESS RELEASE OF FEB 28,
RECEIVED USUN MAR 6, CONCERNING NIGERIAN ATTITUDE ZOWARDS A
SOUTH AFRICAN VISIT TO NIGERIA:

QUOTE:

WITHIN THE PAST FEW DAYS, WE HAVE RECEIVED
NUMEROUS INQUIRIES AS TO WHAT NIGERIA'S ATTITUDE WILL BE
SHOULD SOUTH AFRICA'S PRIME MINISTER, MR. VORSTER WANT
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TO VISIT NIGERIA.

IN FACT, AT AN AIRPORT NEWS CONFERENCE AT IKEJA, LAGOS ON FEBRUARY 24, 1975 A NIGERIAN NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENT ASKED NIGERIA'S HEAD OF STATE, GENERAL GOWON WHETHER HE WOULD WELCOME MR. VORSTER TO NIGERIA SHOULD THE LATTER WANT TO VISIT THE COUNTRY. THE HEAD OF STATE REPLIED THAT THE QUESTION WAS IRRELEVANT AS IT WAS NOT LIKELY THAT THE APARTHEID LEADER WOULD WANT TO VISIT NIGERIA CONSIDERING NIGERIA'S VERY STRONG ANTI-APARTHEID POLICY. HE ADDED THAT IF BY SOME CHANCE NIGERIANS WERE TO WAKE UP ONE MORNING TO LEARN THAT MR. VORSTER HAD ARRIVED UNEXPECTEDLY AT IKEJA AIRPORT, NIGERIANS WOULD PROVE TO HIM THAT THEY ARE A CIVILISED PEOPLE BY TREATING HIM AS A HUMAN BEING IRRESPECTIVE OF HIS COLOUR, CREED OR IDEOLOGY. HE FURTHER EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THIS WOULD TEACH VORSTER THAT ANY ONE LAYING CLAIM TO BEING CIVILISED SHOULD BE DECENT TO OTHER HUMAN BEINGS IRRESPECTIVE OF THE COLOUR OF THEIR SKIN.

WE WISH TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT WILL NOT WELCOME A VISIT BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER AS SUCH A VISIT WILL NOT BE IN ACCORD WITH NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT POLICY REGARDING THE APARTHEID REGIME IN SOUTH AFRICA.

T.A. ODEGBILE
1ST SECRETARY (INFORMATION)

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